World Urbanization Prospects, the 2007 Revision, brought out by the United Nations, the urban population of the world is estimated to be 49.4% of the total population in 2007. India is relatively less urbanized than other countries at the same level of development.

(c) and (d) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) has set the growth target for the Plan period at 9% per year and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. For the rural economy the Eleventh Plan aims at achieving a growth rate of 4% in agriculture sector. For that there is a focus on improving rural connectivity, scaling up of irrigation potential creation, watershed management, rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge, revitalization of the extension system, etc. The schemes which are given priority to the rural region in the Eleventh plan include Bharat Nirman, which is a time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure, in which action is proposed in the areas of irrigation, rural roads, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. The National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) has been set up to bridge gaps in health care in the rural areas. Other programmes such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), etc. are being implemented only in the rural areas for poverty reduction, livelihood security and rural development.

Population suffering from malnutrition

†2262. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten per cent population of the country is devoid of two square meal and is victim of malnutrition;

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating any action plan to make poor section of the society free from malnutrition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) On the basis of the data of 61st Round (2004-2005) large sample survey of consumer expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Organization, the number of people not having two square meals a day throughout the year was 2.4% in rural areas and 0.5% in urban areas at national level based on responses to questions on food sufficiency. How many of them are victim of malnutrition, is not known. A variety of interventions consisting of dietary diversification, nutrient supplementation and public health measures involving better hygiene, sanitation and deworming have been proposed in the Eleventh Plan to tackle the problem of malnutrition. The Eleventh Plan has also included reduction of malnutrition among children of the age group 0-3 years to half its present level and reduction of anemia among women and girls by 50%, among the selected monitorable socio-economic targets.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.